

AW
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The following are the main points from the Rwanda interagency teleconference held on Tuesday afternoon, 5/24:

Summary

RELEASED IN FULL

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The two main issues discussed were JCS's planning for the expanded UNAMIR operation and the USG response to the request for APCs. On the first point, JCS presented a proposal for a four-phase operation; however, the plan had not yet been cleared through DoD or circulated to the interagency for review and approval. On the second issue, the problem of wheeled vs. tracked APCs was raised. The consensus of the group was that the Peacekeeping Core Group needed to address these two issues before we sent a planning team to New York. Accordingly, John Brims is recommending that tomorrow's trip to New York be postponed. (We understand now it will take place Friday.)

The DoD Four-Phase Plan

In preparation for consultations with the UN, JCS drafted a short concept paper outlining their proposal for a four-phase operation. JCS hopes to circulate the proposal within the USG tomorrow. The phases are as follows:

Phase I. Deployment to Kigali of the remainder of the battalion from Ghana (same as Dallaire's first phase).

Phase II. Set up safehavens near border with Burundi, with logistical support out of Burundi (will require acceptance by Burundi, Rwandan interim government/RGF, and RPF).

Phase III. Once a cease-fire is in place, move logistical base into Rwanda and close in on Kigali.

Phase IV. Fan out from Kigali to protect remaining pockets and provide security for relief efforts (essentially Dallaire's Phase II, but in a more permissive environment.)

AF and others urged that the paper be circulated as soon as possible so we can share it with our principals and have an agreed position prior to talking to the UN.

Wheeled vs. Tracked APCs

The problem is that DoD apparently can only offer tracked APCs. However, wheeled APCs would be militarily more appropriate and less costly than tracked APCs. Of even greater concern is that the Ghanaians (and other likely troop contributors) only have experience with wheeled APCs and would need several weeks of training to be able to operate and maintain tracked APCs. This training would be in addition to the time needed by DoD to inspect and ship the vehicles, which OSD estimated would take as long as 6-8 weeks. (PM, AF, and others thought this estimated period was far too long.) Given these problems, it was decided that the APC issue should probably be taken up in the Peacekeeping Core Group meeting that would consider JCS's four-phase plan for UN deployment.